



LIBRARY



Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for 1937
together with the
Annual Report
of
The Sanitary Inspector.



1



Swanage Urban District Council.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT for 1937.

May, 1938.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I beg to submit my Twelfth Annual Report on the Health of the District.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area. The area of this district is 2760 acres, 31 acres being foreshore.

Population. The Population as estimated for 1937 by the Registrar General was 5989 resident.

The Census of April, 1931, showed a population of 6276.

Number of Inhabited Houses. The number of inhabited houses at the 1931 Census was 1461, the average population being 4.3 per house. The number of inhabited houses is now estimated to be about 1710.

Rateable Value. The reduced rateable value on 31st December, 1937, was £69,667, and a penny rate produced about £275.

**Social
Conditions.**

The District is residential in character, there being numerous good class hotels and boarding establishments, etc. There are also a number of excellent preparatory schools in the district.

The principal industry is the quarrying of Purbeck stone, which has no harmful effects on the workers.

**Births and
Deaths.**

The following are the particulars of the births and deaths during 1937 :—

Live Births.

	Total	M	F	
Legitimate	63	36	27	{ Birthrate per 1000 of the estimated resident pop. 10.5
Illegitimate	—	—	—	
Stillbirths	6	4	2	{ Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births 90.9
Deaths	73	41	32	{ Death rate per 1000 of the estimated resident pop. 12.1
Deaths from diseases and accidents of preg- nancy and child birth	...	...	...

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1000 live births	...	...	31.7
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	...	...	31.7
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	...	...	—
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	7
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	—

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.**Public Health
Officers.**

Llewelyn Arnold Baiss, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Medical Officer of Health (part time).

William Arthur Rees, M.D. (Lond.), F.R.C.S, Public Vaccinator and District Medical Officer (part time).

Albert John Williams, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector, Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Joint Board.

Certificated Meat and Foods Inspector. Smoke Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute. Diploma of the Institute of Hygiene.

Miss O'Bryen Hodge, Health Visitor. (County Council Appointment).

Miss E. Hollowell District Nurse and Midwife (County Council Appointment).

Laboratory Facilities.

Periodical reports of water analyses, made by the Clinical Research Association, are sent to the Ministry of Health. Clinical Material, (Sputum Swabs, etc.), milk and foodstuffs are examined by arrangement with the County Medical Officer of Health.

Ambulance Facilities.

Cases of infectious disease are conveyed to Poole in the Motor Ambulance owned by the Poole Council. Motor and Hand Ambulances with stretcher are used for accident cases and are available at Haysome's Garage, in the King's Road.

Nursing in the Home.

The District Nurse, assisted by another Nurse, undertakes general nursing.

There is no arrangement for nursing cases of infectious diseases, apart from the transfer of cases of scarlet fever and diphtheria to the Isolation Hospital.

Child Welfare.

A Centre is held every Friday at the Wesley Memorial Hall in the High Street.

An Orthopædic Clinic is held fortnightly, on Thursdays, at the Children's Hospital.

Fever and Diphtheria.

Hospitals.

The Council have arranged for the reception of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria patients into the Alderney Isolation Hospital at Poole.

Little use has been made of the accommodation, as there have been so few infectious cases.

Smallpox.

No Hospital is provided, but the Council are negotiating with the Poole Council.

A Children's Hospital of approximately 30 beds, standing on the South side of Swanage Bay, on the cliffs, is managed by the Dorset Branch of the British Red Cross Society.

A Cottage Hospital for general cases, contains a male ward of six beds and a female ward of the same number, and a new additional ward of four beds, with two private wards, containing one bed in each.

The Hospital accommodation is adequate for the area.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply.

The supply has been satisfactory in quality and in quantity.

Forty three domestic supplies have been connected to the water mains in the Urban Area.

The quantity of water delivered, reached a maximum of 530,000 gallons, per day during August.

The water supplies are periodically tested both chemically and bacteriologically, and the following is a copy of an analysis made on August 20th :—

Analytical Report.

The sample contained :—

		Parts per 100,000	Grains per gall.
Total solids (dried at 120° C)	...	29	20
Combined chlorine	...	3.5	2.5
Equivalent to sodium chloride	...	5.8	4.0
Nitric nitrogen	...	0.48	3.4
Nitrous nitrogen	...	Absent.	
Ammoniacal nitrogen	...	0.016	0.011

Albumenoid nitrogen	...	...	0.011	0.008
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27°C			0.037	0.026
Lead or Copper	...	...	Absent.	
Hardness temporary	...	...	11.16	7.81
„ permanent	...	...	4.16	2.91
„ total	...	...	15.32	10.72
Sediment	...	...	None.	
Free Chlorine	...	...	Absent.	

Bacteriological Examination.

Micro-organisms per ml. (on nutrient gelatine)	...	...	10
Micro-organisms per ml. develop- ing on agar at 37°C	...	...	None
B.Coli	...	...	...All coli-form bacilli and Bac- illus Typhosus absent (in 20 ml.)
B. Enteritidis sporogenes	...	...	Absent.

Drainage and Sewerage. Forty yards of 6in. sewer has been laid in the extension of Steer Road. Twenty-two new drainage connections to the public sewers were made during the year.

River and Streams. The stream became badly silted up during the year. The Council undertook the work of clearing the bed and charged the various owners with the cost.

House Refuse. The method of collection and disposal of house refuse has not altered, but efforts have been made to obtain a suitable site for a Destructor. The refuse collected averages over 40 tons per week. In addition to ordinary collections twice a week, the daily collection of fish offal and extra collections from a number of boarding houses, hotels, and refreshment establishments have been continued during the season.

Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

Report of Sanitary Inspector.

Report for the year 1937 in accordance with Article 27, Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935 :—

Number and Nature of Inspections.

Under the Housing Consolidation Regulations	120
On Complaint or otherwise	97
General re-visits	545
<i>re</i> Infectious Diseases	23
Fish-shops	8
Public Conveniences	12
Ice-cream Premises	15
Schools	2
Cinemas, Halls, etc.	17
Camps	62
Cowsheds	52
Milkshops and Dairies	43
Slaughter-houses	292
Meat and Food Shops	159
Food Preparing Premises	5
Bakehouses	23
Factories	23
Workshops and Workplaces	13
<i>re</i> Rats and Mice	6
<i>re</i> Shops Acts	6
<i>re</i> Housing Act (Overcrowding and Provisions)	58
Miscellaneous Visits	170
New Buildings	1142
<hr/>	
Total	2893
<hr/>	
Drains Examined	10
Drains Smoke Tested	16
Drains Water Tested	38
Sanitary Certificates Issued	4
Sewer Connections Examined	22

Rooms Disinfected after Infectious Disease ...	17
Bedding Stoved, etc.	4

Notices Issued.

Statutory :—

Re Public Health Acts	3
	—

Informal :—

Notices	85
Other letters, etc., sent out	95
	—

Result of Service of Notices :—

	Statutory	Informal
Number complied with ...	5	54
Number outstanding ...	0	35
	—	—
	5	89
	—	—

The following repairs were carried out as the result of the above-mentioned notices :—

Rainwater pipes or eaves gutters repaired ...	1
Drainage systems repaired, cleared or improved	16
Drainage systems relaid	2
Inspection chambers provided or repaired ...	5
Cesspools emptied or repaired	4
Sanitary accommodation provided	3
Sanitary accommodation repaired or cleansed	10
Urinal accommodation provided	1
Urinals abolished	1
Dustbins provided	10
Accumulations removed	7
Artificial Lighting provided	1
Site concrete laid	1
Premises cleansed	1
Roofs repaired	1
Water tanks cleansed	1

Floors repaired	3
New sinks provided	1
Fireplaces repaired	5
Washing coppers provided	1
Other repairs... ..	8
Campers removed	1

Disinfection.

Disinfection of bedding, etc., is carried out by means of the "Threshes Steam Disinfector," situated at the Council Depot in King's Road. During the year it was found necessary to disinfect after 17 cases of infectious disease; in addition 4 other lots of bedding were stoved.

Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.

There are 23 Factories, 6 Workshops, and 4 Workplaces, and 6 Bakehouses on the Register.

Inspections were made as follows :—

Premises	Number of Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Number of Prosecutions
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	23	5	—
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries and Workplaces)	13	—	—
		Defects Found	Remedied
Want of cleanliness ... ..	...	3	3
Other nuisances ... ..	...	1	—
Defective sanitary accommodation		1	1
		—	—
		5	4
		—	—

Bakehouses.

23 visits were paid to the six bakehouses. In only one instance was it found necessary to serve a notice requesting the limewashing of the walls, etc., but the work was carried out satisfactorily.

Places of Public Entertainment.

Seventeen visits were paid to places of Public Entertainment. The sanitary accommodation in every case was well maintained. A notice served last year on the owner of one Hall was complied with, by the installation of a modern urinal, water closet, and wash basin.

Milk Supplies.

Ninety-five visits were made to various Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops in the District.

Four Informal Notices were served during the year, three of which required structural alterations.

Five Notices have been complied with (several from the previous year) and the remainder are in hand for early completion.

The following Licences were in force, under the Milk (Special Designation) Order, 1936, at the end of the year :—

Pasteurising Establishments	...	...	...	2
Dealer's Licence to use the designation "Pasteurised"	...	...	...	1
Dealers' Licence to use the designation "Tuberculin Tested"	...	...	...	3
Licence respecting Establishment for bottling "Accredited Milk"	...	...	...	1
Licence in respect of Shop for the sale of "Accredited Milk"	...	...	...	1

Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924.

These Regulations provide for the adequate inspection of slaughtered food animals and improvement in the handling, transport and distribution of meat.

Every endeavour is made to inspect the carcasses and offals of food animals before removal from the slaughter-houses.

In addition to daily inspections, it has been necessary to make visits to the slaughter-houses

after office hours, but by so doing, practically 100% of the animals slaughtered are examined.

The number of inspections made during the year was :—

Slaughter-houses	...	...	292
Meat and Food Shops	...	...	159
Food Preparing Premises	...		5
		Total	456

The number of carcasses examined as a result of these inspections, was as follows :—

Bullocks, heifers, etc.	...	...	119
Cows	...	...	32
Calves	...	...	131
Sheep	...	...	971
Pigs	...	...	555
		Total	1808

Unsound Food.

The undermentioned Tables shew that 6 whole carcasses and 31 parts or organs were found to be affected with tuberculosis, and that 2 carcasses and 132 parts or organs were affected with diseases other than tuberculosis.

(1). TUBERCOLOSIS.

Animal,	Article.	Extent of Disease.
Beasts.	3 whole carcasses and offals.	Generalised.
	2 portions forequarter ...	Localised.
	1 portion hindquarter ...	ditto
	7 heads and tongues ...	ditto
	1 liver and offal ...	ditto
	3 sets lung ...	ditto
Pigs.	3 whole carcasses and offals	Generalised.
	15 heads and tongues ...	Localised
	2 livers and fats ...	ditto

(2). OTHER DISEASES.

Animal,	Article.	Disease.
Beast.	1 head and tongue ...	Actinomycosis
	1 ditto ...	Abscess
	21 livers ...	Distoma Hepaticum
	3 livers ...	Multiple Abscesses
Pigs.	1 whole carcass and offal	Fevered flesh
	38 livers ...	Cirrhosis
	3 plucks ...	Serous condition
	3 hearts ...	Pericarditis
	2 heads and tongues...	Abscesses
	2 sets lungs and hearts	Pleurisy
Sheep.	1 whole carcass and offal	Emaciation
	52 livers ...	Distoma Hepaticum
	1 portion forequarter	Pleurisy
	1 set lungs and portion forequarter	ditto
	1 portion hindquarter and offal	Peritonitis
Calves.	1 liver ...	Abscess
	1 portion of forequarter	Pleurisy

Other foodstuffs voluntarily surrendered :

1 tinned Danish Fore-end ... Unsound
1 tinned Ham ... ditto

In all cases Certificates were issued to the owners.

Total weight of meat and foodstuffs surrendered: —
1 ton, 9 cwts., 3 qrs., 9 lbs.

Camps.

A large number of holiday campers visit Swanage each year, and 62 visits to camps were made to ensure that proper water supplies, sanitary and refuse accommodation were provided. The large organised camps were admirably conducted, but a

certain amount of difficulty was experienced with the small casual camps, and in one case campers had to be removed.

The new Public Health Act gives power to the Council to control the use of moveable dwellings.

The Act did not come into operation until 1st October, 1937, so that the provisions could not be applied during the Summer months.

In the future, however, more effective control will be obtained by the issue of licences with specified conditions attached thereto.

Inspection of New Buildings.

147 plans were submitted to the Council for the erection of buildings, etc., under the byelaws relating to New Streets and Buildings, and 1142 visits were made to works in progress.

(Signed) A. J. WILLIAMS,

M.R.San.I., M.S.I A.

Shops.

The Inspector made 6 inspections under the Shops Acts, 1934, relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences. It was not found necessary to serve any notices during the year.

Eradiation of Bed Bugs.

No action was found to be necessary during the year.

Schools.

There are two good modern Elementary Schools, and one Secondary School, in the district.

Housing.

During the year 89 houses were, by reason of disrepair or sanitary defects, found to be unfit for human habitation. 54 of these properties were officially represented to the Council in February for demolition.

After the service of Demolition Orders, "appeals" were made in 52 cases.

The Minister of Health held a Public Enquiry at the Town Hall on July 21st, 22nd, and 23rd, at which your Sanitary Inspector gave evidence as chief witness for the Council.

No decision had been reached by the Minister up to the end of the year as to the fate of these cottages.

Total number of new houses erected during						
the year	...	...	...	...	...	27

Number erected with State assistance :—

By Local Authority	6
--------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

By other Bodies or Persons	—
----------------------------	-----	-----	---

1. Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the year :

(1).	(a).	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	188
------	------	---	-----	-----	-----	-----

(b).	Number of inspections made for the purpose	568
------	--	-----	-----	-----	-----

(2).	(a).	Number of dwelling - houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925.			120
------	------	---	--	--	-----

(b).	Number of inspections made for the purpose	374
------	--	-----	-----	-----	-----

(3).	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...			89
------	--	-----	--	--	----

(4).	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	62
------	--	-----	-----	-----	----

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal Notices :

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers... 41

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :

- (a). Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16, of the Housing Act, 1936 :—
- (1). Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs. ... —
- (2). Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—
- (a). By owners. ... —
- (b). By local authority in default of owners. ... —
- (b). Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—
- (1). Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. ... 3
- (2). Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—
- (a). By owners. ... 3
- (b). By local authority in default of owners. ... —
- (c). Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—
- (1). Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... 54
- (2). Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of

	Demolition Orders (from previous year).	1
(d).	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
	(1). Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made.	—
	(2). Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit. —	—
4. Housing Act, 1936 (Part IV.) Overcrowding.		
(a.)	(i). Number of dwellings where overcrowding at end of the year	5
	(ii). Number of families dwelling therein	5
	(iii). Number of persons dwelling therein	25
(b).	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.	2
(c).	(i). Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	3
	(ii.) Number of persons concerned in such cases.	9
(d).	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling - houses have again become overcrowded after the local authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil

Inspection and Supervision of Foods.

Milk Supply. Fifty-two visits were paid to 14 cowsheds and forty-three visits to eight milkshops and dairies. 4 notices were served for alterations and improvements to cowsheds, and all the work has been carried out or is in hand for early completion.

**Meat and
Other Foods.**

There is one registered and one licensed slaughter-house in the District, in addition to a private slaughter-house attached to one of the hotels. The Sanitary Inspector regularly inspects these premises, in addition to butchers' shops and other food premises, and his report gives the number of inspections made by him during the year, together with the amount of meat and other foodstuffs condemned.

The following Table shows the percentage of carcasses and parts affected with Tuberculosis in comparison with other diseases :—

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Inspected ...	119	32	131	971	555
<i>All Diseases except Tuberculosis.</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	1	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	18	8	2	56	48
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis. ...	15.1	25.0	1.5	5.8	8.8
<i>Tuberculosis only.</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	3	—	—	—	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	10	4	—	—	18
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	10.9	3.3	—	—	3.7

Adulteration, The following is a list of samples taken in
etc. Swanage Urban Area, during the year ended 31st
 December, 1937.

Article.				No. of Samples.	Genuine
Breakfast Sausage				1	Yes
Brawn				1	"
Butter				1	"
Cheese				1	"
Cornflour				2	"
Cheap Cake				1	"
Chocolate				1	"
Cream Cake				1	"
Condensed Milk				1	"
Gin				1	"
Glauber's Salt				1	"
Liquorice Comp.					
Powder of				1	"
Margarine				1	"
Marmalade				1	"
Milk				11	{ 10 " 1 No
Oatmeal				1	Yes
Pepper				1	"
Quinine, Amm. Tinct. of				1	"
Rice				1	"
Tinned Peas				1	"

One sample of Milk 18.1% extraneous water.

Prosecution.—Seller fined £2 and £1 1s. costs.

31
 11
 —
 20

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

The prevalence of notifiable infectious diseases was negligible.

In the Children's Hospital, all the children admitted with illnesses which necessitated their stay in hospital for a period of one year or more, have been artificially immunized against Diphtheria.

Diphtheria anti-toxin can be obtained immediately from the Chemists when required, and the account for the same sent to the Medical Officer of Health, if the cases are suitable for this gratuitous treatment.

No relation has been observed between cases of Scarlet Fever and Puerperal Fever.

Intimations of Infectious Diseases from the School Authorities are noted, and any action thought necessary is taken.

No cases of Measles or Whooping Cough have been sent to Hospital.

The immunity against Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever in this area must now be very low, and an active artificial immunization against these diseases must be seriously considered in the near future.

Measles convalescent serum has been used with good effect in the Private Schools in the District. It is very sure in its effect, and the only difficulty is to obtain sufficient quantities when one is faced with a large epidemic.

No vaccinations or re-vaccinations have been made under the Public Health (Small-Pox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)
during the year 1937:—

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	2 (5-10)	2	—
Pneumonia	8 { 1 (1-2) 1 (2-3) 1 (3-4) 3 (10-15) 2 (65 and over)	—	1
Erysipelas	1 (45)	—	—
Puerperal Fever	1 (35)	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—
Acute Anterior Polio-myelitis	2 { 1 (5½) 1 (38)	—	—

(a). **Prevention of Blindness.** No action taken.

(b). **Tuberculosis.** No action has been necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or section 62, of the Public Health Act, 1925.

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1937.

Particulars of new cases of tuberculosis and of all deaths from the disease in the area during 1937, are shown as follows :—

Age Periods			NEW CASES				DEATHS.			
			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
			M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	...	...						
1	...	...						
5	...	...						
10	...	...			1	1				
15	...	...				1				
20	...	...	1			1				
25	...	...	1							
35	...	...			1					
45	...	...		1						
55	...	...	1	1						
65 and upwards										
Totals	...		3	2	2	3				

I remain,

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

Your obedient servant,

LLEWELYN A. BAISS,

Medical Officer of Health.

